



Working with the local community continues:

To further encourage local community participation in the education process through the use of technology, we asked the students to inform their parents about the ILC's and the project, and to bring them to the ILC to get a first hand look at what they have accomplished at the center. The parents accepted the idea and were excited to join their children in the learning process. At the ILC, the orientation session prior to the training focused on basic computer programs and the benefits of using the computer.

This 40-hour training course for the parents from the Ramallah area continued through August 30th. They completed a Windows course, which included a course on Microsoft Word. They were then tested on the most important computer applications by asking each woman to choose a favorite recipe and to write about how to cook it. They were also trained on general internet use, and how to register and communicate through the e-mail.

Additionally, fourteen women from Al-Bireh, began a similar training course on August 17th which is still in progress.



This summer was full of graduation ceremonies and presentations of student projects. At Khawlah Bent Alazwar School, the students presented their projects to the amazement of invited guests. Dr. Ghazi Abu Sharekh, General Director of Training and Supervision at the Ministry of Education (MoE) and other Ministry staff, RI-SOL staff, school administration and the families of participating students attended this special event. At Wedad Naser Adden and Huda Abdul Nabi Schools, the students also presented their projects and the Ministry of Education staff, which included the computer supervisor, in addition to municipality staff, the principal and teachers, RI-SOL staff, and the families of participating students were at hand to give them support. As for the Alawda and Alhashemya Schools, we distributed certificates and presents to the students at the conclusion of the summer camp. The students expressed their happiness for being given the opportunity to share in camp activities.

To the delight of the students, Dr. Ghazi Abu Sharekh invited them to present their projects at MoE headquarters, so that all Ministry staff would have the chance to acquaint themselves with the students' accomplishments. The Technical Department also asked us to upload the projects to MoE web site.

TABLE of CONTENTS

Page1: Working with the local community continues

Page2: ICT Summer Camps

Page3: ICT Summer Camps

Page4: Students in Hebron integrate technology into curriculum

Page5: Computers for school administrators &



Khawlah Bent Alazwar



Wedad Naser Adden



Khawlah Bent Al-azwar

ICT SUMMER CAMPS

On August 15th, 125 students (75 girls and 50 boys) from twenty secondary schools from Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah school districts embarked on an adventure of ICT Summer Camps administered at the five Internet Learning Centers supported by the Global Connections and Exchange Project (GCEP). Organized jointly by RI-SOL and the Ministry of Education, the ICT Summer Camp was the first camp in the Palestinian Territories to focus on Information and Communication Technologies. Pleased with the impact of the GCEP project on the students from the five participating ILCs, the Ministry of Education requested that students from the neighboring schools be included in the summer camp activities to gain ICT and leadership skills. As a result, each ILC hosted 25 most active students: 10 students from the ILC school and 15 students from neighboring schools.



Alhashemya



Alawda



Huda Abdul Nabi

The participants spent ten days (four hours a day) developing new friendships, expanding technology skills, building teamwork skills, and developing leadership skills. As future leaders of their schools, the youngsters first learned how to become facilitators or peer trainers through a *Folklore and Traditions*. While learning more about their traditions and heritage, students gained confidence and pride. In the second part of the activity, students developed their facilitation skills by going through the process of preparing a presentation – not just from the technical aspect, but also the content. Students learned about the pre-planning stage by addressing the following questions: Who is the audience? What do I want them to learn? What is the best presentation format to achieve that goal? How can I lead the discussion to facilitate the learning process? Having answered the key questions, students prepared their presentations about folklore to be used for future peer-to-peer training and workshops. Students used three presentation tools known to them: Power Point, Publisher, and FrontPage. [The presentations can be viewed at www.connect-middleeast.org. The final

results were presented to the officials from the Ministry of Education, local municipalities, parents, and community members. During the second half of the camp, the future leaders have been exposed to the idea of peaceful conflict resolution, non-violent resistance, and community development through



screening of the film *Gandhi* (dubbed in Arabic) and the follow-up discussions. When asked what message they gained from the movie, the students said: "Gandhi worked to stop racism against the Indians and black people", "He stayed away from violence and relied on traditions and human rights", "He used different types of resistance to gain independence". Students also talked about virtues they should learn from Gandhi, such as patience and un-

ion between groups working towards the same purpose. Many students felt they can put into action some things they have seen in the movie – focus on traditions and their rights.

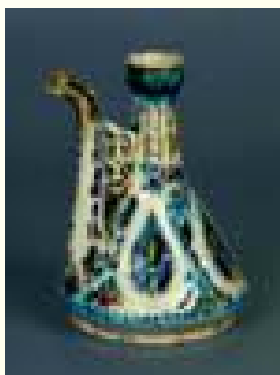
Besides the two main activities, the ICT summer camps were enriched by additional activities designed and developed by each school. For example, Alawda ILC (Bethlehem) decided to organize an awareness campaign for its youth on the issue of drug abuse. Drug trafficking and drug abuse have not been an issue in the Palestinian Territories in the past. However, in the recent months, especially in Hebron, drug trafficking and consumption have been on the rise. Bethlehem, located only 20 minutes away from Hebron, could be the next location impacted by this social problem. To educate the youth about the issue and the risks associated with illegal drugs, the Bethlehem On-Site Monitor with assistance from the local

ICT SUMMMER CAMPS/Continued

Police organized a workshop during which students learned the types of drugs and their affects on the body and mind. Students also learned how to talk to their teachers or parents about suspicious activities they see and how they can help their friends if they get involved in drugs. Since this is a completely new topic and may be a potential threat to Bethlehem students, they asked many questions to the police officer.

The follow-up activities will include a more thorough research that students will embark upon using the Internet.

After ten eventful days, seeds of leadership and initiative taking have been planted among the young Palestinians.



Lecture on Drug Abuse at Alawda School



Students in Hebron integrate technology into curriculum

On June 1st, RI-SOL's On-Site Monitor from Hebron, Ms. Samaher Mishal, announced her idea for a summer competition among students. Students of the Wedad Naser Aldeen Girls' School were asked to select a topic from the next year's curriculum and to prepare a comprehensive and interactive power point presentation or a website on that topic. Working in pairs or small groups, girls selected topics from 13 different subjects and worked meticulously for more than nine weeks collecting information, preparing slides, organizing the slideshow. English lesson for tenth grade, Twajihi grade, cloning, systems from ministry curriculum, doctor in your house(treatment from plants), history of Palestine, sea animals, the linguistic and nervous, The competition ended on August 28th, when the participating groups presented their work to the invited audience, comprised of the community members, teachers, Ministry of Education, Directorate of Education in Hebron, Municipality of Hebron, RI-SOL staff, and students' families. The winners - learn English for tenth class, doctor in your house, inheritance, selected by the audience, received many gifts for their hard work.





As a result of meeting between Alawda Internet Learning Center and the Directorate of Education in Bethlehem (local branch of the Ministry of Education), the ILC was asked to organize summer training for the school principals of all thirteen schools in Bethlehem. The training course focused on basic computer skills (Excel and Word), as well as ways of integrating technology in school management (e-mail, bulletin boards, etc.).

In addition to the administrative focus of the workshop, the school principals and five teachers learned about interactive teaching methodologies and the importance of supporting the teachers who are trying to integrate these methods in their classroom. Finally, they have learned about the Global Connections and Exchange Program, its accomplishments and its schedule of activities for the upcoming year. All schools were invited to involve their students and teachers in the online educational activities implemented by RI-SOL.

ICT training for "Sons of Martyrs" Camp

August of 2005 brought together many boys between 12-15 years old from all around the West Bank. These youth had one thing in common – they all lost their fathers during the first or the second Intifada. Since that time, they have been raised by their mothers, relatives, or older siblings. As the camp was taking place in Ramallah, near the Alhashemya Internet Learning Center, RI-SOL extended an invitation to the boys to attend a ten-hour training on computer literacy. For the majority of the youth, especially those living in the remote areas, it was the first time to use the computer. The Alhashemya ILC was opened to them for 5 days. Among all the applications they were introduced to, the youngsters were all drawn to the Internet and e-mail. After the training, they all said they would try to find a similar center near their home-town to continue to expand their skills and learn about the world via the Internet.

